

POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8 MAY 2019

Present: Councillor Walker(Chairperson)
Councillors Berman, Boyle, Cunah, Hudson, Lister and Mackie

80 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bowen-Thomson

81 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had a responsibility under Part 5 (III) of the Constitution, the Members Code of Conduct to declare any interests and complete Personal Interest Forms.

82 : MINUTES

The minutes of the 10 April 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

83 : BILINGUAL CARDIFF

The Chairperson welcomed:

- Councillor Chris Weaver (Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance)
- Ffion Gruffudd (Operational Manager Bilingual Cardiff)

The Committee now had an opportunity to consider a revised action plan for the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy which formed part of the 2018-19 Welsh Language Standards Annual Report.

Councillor Weaver explained it was valuable the Committee look at the revised Action Plan. This was a live document and an opportunity for Members to provide their views.

The Committee received a presentation which outlined the following:

- Bilingual Cardiff Vision
 - Our vision to develop a truly bilingual Cardiff. A Cardiff where our citizens can live, work and play as well as access services and support in Welsh or English equally.
 - A capital city where bilingualism is promoted as something completely natural, and where the Welsh language is protected and nurtured for future generations to use and enjoy.
- Standard 145
- City Wide Strategy including partners
- NICO Review 2018 – The Strategy has built on strong foundations of consultation and communication.

- NICO's Recommendations – R7 consider reviewing the action plan in consultation with key partners (by the end of year 2, March 2019) with a view to updating or adapting the targets.
- Next Steps – SMT 21 May, Cabinet 13 June, Full Council 20 June.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

The Committee was advised of the resources in place to manage the Action Plan. Strong partnerships were in place to support progress going forward in order to have a fully bilingual Cardiff. It was recognised that all partners experienced financial challenges but ensuring that progress and development of the language was at the forefront of the agenda.

The Committee asked if the 35 partners were able to deliver and support the Action Plan.

Members were advised that the Action Plan had been agreed and partners were committed to realising the objectives. The Council had issued the Standard to promote its statutory obligations and it was in the Council's best interest to deliver.

Committee Members drew attention to Welsh Medium Education and the development of Plasdwr as a Bilingual School. The Committee expressed its concerns regarding the implication on the delivery of Welsh Language Standards of bilingual schools rather than dedicated welsh language schools.

The Committee was advised that Welsh Medium Education had Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) targets to meet, with the intention to establish a 7 form entry school by 2031.

Members were advised that in Cardiff the support for the Welsh language was good. One of the challenges experienced was how the bilingual skills could be utilised outside of the educational environment. The Council had also created a Welsh Tutor post in the Academy to maintain the increase in the number of welsh speaking in the authority and the provision of a "word of the day" scheme to encourage awareness and use of Welsh in the workplace.

The Committee was advised of the software packages were in place to support the Welsh Language. Ongoing developments in services and facilities were being realised in partnership with the Welsh Government and other organisations. Council officers were meeting with Microsoft to develop a bilingual Chatbot.

The Committee asked that an update be provided to the Committee in 12 months.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED that the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Members on behalf of the Committee to convey their comments and observations.

The Chairperson welcomed:

- Councillor Chris Weaver (Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance)
- Chris Lee (Corporate Director – Resources)
- Dean Thomas (Programme Manager, CADP)
- Ian Phillips and Samantha Clements from the Wales Audit Office.

The Committee would be considering a report from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) regarding their review of the arrangements to support the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Weaver to make a statement.

Councillor Weaver drew attention to the two scrutiny committee's that had taken place by Policy Review & Performance addressing the Capital Ambition Programmes of Modernisation and Resilient Services. The Wales Audit Office were thanked for their role in the process and further scrutiny of the programme was welcomed.

The Chairperson invited the Wales Audit Office to comment.

The Wales Audit Office drew attention to the report of the Review of the arrangements to support the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme – Cardiff Council, explaining that work was progressing and officers were making progress.

The Committee noted the following:

- The Council was working constructively with other public services to help implement the Programme.
- The Council was focusing on how it could address its significant service demand drive service improvement and address medium term financial challenges through the Programme, but linked to its medium term financial plan could be strengthened.

Proposals for Improvement

P1 The Council needs to strengthen the role of scrutiny | engaging with and challenging the delivery and impact of the Programme to increase accountability and help provide momentum.

P2 The Council would benefit from a review of the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme management arrangement alongside others that support delivery of the Corporate Plan such as the Directorate Delivery Plans

P3 The Council could do more to assess the extent to which the Capital Ambition Delivery Programme was contributing to the achievement of the Council's £91M savings target and make links to the medium term financial plan.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

Members drew attention to the information they had received on Capital Ambition Modernisation and Resilient Services and were of the view there was very little to scrutinise and was more briefing information.

The Committee was advised that Cardiff had strengthened its working practices along with a programme to build links into scrutiny with scope for scrutiny to build upon. There were also opportunities to identify subject specific scrutiny involving Governance arrangements.

The Committee discussed progress and how this could be developed.

Members were informed that Capital Ambition delivered added value, which added positives linked into the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Service Reviews and how they were selected, contributing towards enhanced delivery models, guided by input from scrutiny.

The Committee was informed of the costs and benefits. Certain costs were monitored by the Investment Review Board (IRB), which analysed projects through the Change Programme. There were areas that could be strengthened by making projects more transformational.

The Committee asked to receive more detailed information before scrutinising items and what specifically the Committee should be considering.

The Committee discussed the methodology behind the scrutiny process in order to support productive scrutiny going forward and to have input in what was required when scrutinising Capital Ambition.

Members were advised of the governance in place for the programme and noted that some projects had not progressed from their infancy such as Electronic Signatures.

The Chairperson suggested that officers meet with him to analyse and discuss projects coming forward.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED that the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Members on behalf of the Committee to convey their comments and observations.

85 : DEVELOPING THE PROPERTY STRATEGY

The Chairperson welcomed the following:

- Councillor Russell Goodway (Cabinet Member for Investment & Development)
- Helen Thomas (Head of Property)
- Matthew Seymour (Principal Asset Manager)

Councillor Goodway explained that Estates were working on a Corporate Property Strategy and it was important to note the success and achievements of the current strategy. Possible changes could take place in the future and therefore it was vital to start thinking of a way forward for the programme that would meet the requirements of the Capital Programme.

The Committee received a presentation which outlined the following:

- Key Themes and Targets
 - Fewer but better buildings
 - Rationalisation, Collaboration, Modernisation
 - Property to be managed Corporately (strategically)
 - New governance: Asset Management Board chaired by CEX
 - 5 year targets
- Achievements
- Lessons Learned from 2015 -2020 Strategy
- High Level Plan
- Discussion Points

The Chairperson invited the Committee to ask questions.

The Committee asked for an update on the current position with Education and Corporate Landlord.

The Committee were advised that it was acknowledged the importance of Education determining property specification, however, in terms of identifying sites for schools Corporate Landlord would lead on the role.

The Committee asked about the issues with silo mentality, along with the issues of leadership and how was this progressing.

Members were advised that the Involvement of external public sector colleagues was supporting this moving forward. The Police were currently rationalising their estate and identifying locations, which could work better if co- located with other services such as Social Services and Housing. The Strategy was being developed to bring this together, which also had an impact on council departments who were being challenged by external organisations.

The Committee were provided with information on the Asset Management Board and the monitoring of Council owned property.

Members of the Committee were advised of the maximisation of the Strategic Estate and how this could be challenged. If organisations could not pay their commercial rent, should the Council subsidise the service and charge a lower rent to protect activities. If the Council recognised that an organisation was not in a position to run and fund an activity should that Commercial Asset Transfer (CAT) take place.

The Committee made reference to successful projects in the city and the involvement of the Co-operative model which supported and acted as a facilitator.

Members were advised that processes were in place to analyse co-locations and occupancy of space. The use of Council Hub's and joint working locations with Police and NHS services would bring services together and gain further access for support.

The Committee drew attention to new build developments and the cost of reinforced foundations if the footprint were to change in the future.

Members were assured that the estate was future proofed for 20 years to be more efficient going forward and support future development.

The Committee was advised that currently there was no specific report on Depot's. Work was underway but there was nothing definite to date.

RESOLVED: The Committee AGREED that the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Members on behalf of the Committee to convey their comments and observations.

86 : FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items coming forward for future meetings and asked that Donna Jones, Health & Safety be available for Sickness Absence item.

87 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None

88 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 12 JUNE 2019